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some fragments of wheel-made pottery on the surface of the older tumulus, as well as in the neighboring irrigation column, seems to represent a transition from the older to the newer. This suggests the possibility that the gap was filled by the strata which has disappeared through wind and water erosion, and which must, in any event, have been of considerable thickness.

Through all the cultures except the last—that of the iron stage—there ran a remarkable and characteristic burial custom. The children—at least certain children—and seemingly only children, were buried in the houses, under the floor, in a layer of fire-hardened earth. I was struck last year by the fact that all the human bones I sent from here to Professor Zittel were those of children. The skeletons lie on the side with the knees drawn up in the 'liegende höcker' position. With them have been found beads of turquoise, lapis lazuli, carnelian and other minerals. Eighteen of such burials have been studied.

#### THE GOLDEN TROUT OF MT. WHITNEY.

THE most beautiful and in many respects the most interesting of all the trouts is the famous golden trout of Mount Whitney. It is known only from a few small mountain streams high up in the Sierras on the western slopes of Whitney, the highest mountain in the United States. It was formerly abundant in Volcano Creek, tributary to the South Fork of Kern River, and has been introduced into Cottonwood Creek and perhaps other streams on the east slope of the Sierras, tributary to Owens Lake. Its original home seems to have been Volcano Creek and in that stream only above the falls.

During the last few years many camping parties have gone into the region and reports have reached the Bureau of Fisheries that the species is in danger of extermination. Recently Stewart Edward White, the author of 'The Blazed Trail,' called attention to the danger, and President Roosevelt, the true naturalist that he is and always alive to more matters of interest than any one else, addressed a letter to the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, asking that an investigation be

made to determine what steps should be taken for its preservation.

In compliance with the President's request, Commissioner Bowers is sending a party to the Mount Whitney region to find out all they can about the golden trout. It is intended to determine its present distribution, in what streams it is now found, into what it has been transplanted, into what additional streams it might be introduced, and whether the species can be propagated artificially. It is believed there will be no difficulty with cultivating the species if a few individuals for breeding stock can be gotten to one of the government fish hatcheries. This will not be an easy task, as the fish will have to be carried on pack-horses for 24 to 48 hours down the east slope of the Sierras through a semi-desert region to Lone Pine, or 3 or 4 days to Visalia.

The expedition that will conduct these investigations will be under the immediate direction of Dr. Barton W. Evermann, assistant in charge Scientific Inquiry in the Bureau of Fisheries. The other members of the party will be Dr. Oliver P. Jenkins and Professor Rufus L. Green, of Stanford University, Professor Chancey Juday, of the University of Colorado, and Captain Charles B. Hudson, the artist, who will paint the golden trout in life colors. Professor Juday will make a special study of the food and feeding habits of the trout, Professor Green will study the physical characters of the streams to be examined, while Drs. Evermann and Jenkins will give their attention to the biological and fish-cultural problems involved and to the geographic distribution of the species. The party will outfit early in July at Visalia, California, with pack outfit and enter the High Sierra by way of Three Rivers and Mineral King. About a month's time will be devoted to the investigations and it is believed that the results will be of great interest to anglers and fish-culturists.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of doctor of laws on Dr. William Osler, professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University.